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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/808,040	03/15/2001	Atsushi Kota	Q63295	3211

7590 07/13/2005

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

DINH, DUC Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2674

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/808,040

Applicant(s)

KOTA ET AL.

Examiner

DUC Q. DINH

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is response to the Amendment filed on February 11, 2005. Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are pending in the application, claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice of disclaimer. An Office Action is provided as follow.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2, first occurrence "display portions" should read, "display portion". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushigusa (U. S. Patent No. 5,552,703) in view of Imamura (U. S. Patent No. 5,726,677).

In reference to claim 1, Ushigusa discloses an electroluminescent (EL) image display device which comprises a plurality of stripe data electrodes in lines A1-Am, light emitting layer, and a plurality of stripe-like scanning electrodes on lines B1-Bn, and further comprising an image display portion formed by a plurality of light emitting elements E1,1-Em,n in a matrix form at crossing points between data electrodes and scanning electrodes, and column driving circuit 2 and a row driving circuit 1 for driving the image display portion by selecting and

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lighting the light emitting elements. In addition, Ushigusa discloses a constant current source is used for driving the column driving circuit to maintain a state where the device emits the light at a desired instantaneous luminance and row driving circuit successively lighting horizontal regions in sequence corresponding to the number of scanning electrodes for driving the light emitting elements (Figs 1-3, col. 1, line 50 - col. 2, line 50). Ushigusa does not disclose the row driving circuit simultaneously drives more than two of the scanning electrodes for driving the light emitting elements. Imamura discloses a row driving circuit 220 in Fig. 1 for a matrix display such as electroluminescent display (col. 21, lines 65-67) that simultaneously driving more than two electrodes (Fig. 7) as claimed.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to replace the row driving circuit of Imamura to the row driving of Ushigusa thereby improving the contrast and reducing flicker for the display system.

Claim 5 is method claim corresponding to the apparatus of claim 1; therefore, is rejected based on the same basis set forth in said claim.

5. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ushigusa (U. S. Patent No. 5,552,703) in view of Imamura (U. S. Patent No. 5,726,677), as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Saito et al (U. S. Patent No. 6,366,026), hereinafter Saito.

In reference to claim 2, the combination of Ushigusa and Imamura does not disclose the image display portion is divided into plurality of images display portions for display images by at least two image display regions by dividing said display plurality of scanning electrodes into

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at least two regions. Saito discloses in Fig. 1, an image display portion of a display of is divided into image display regions as claimed.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to learn the teaching of Saito, i.e.: dividing image display portion into two display regions, in the display as disclosed by Ushigusa and Immamura so that the display is achieved simultaneously scanning in both divided halves of the screen and the writing of one frame of data is faster.

In reference to claim 4, Ushigusa discloses the light emitting element is selected from an EL element as claimed (col. 1, lines 15-20).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2 and 4-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DUC Q DINH whose telephone number is (571) 272-7686. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00.AM-4:00.PM.

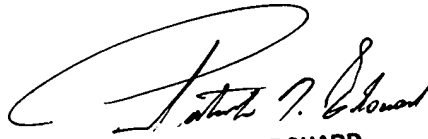
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edouard Patrick can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DUC Q DINH
Examiner
Art Unit 2674

DQD
July 8, 2005



PATRICK N. EDOUARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER